

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Tetsunori OTAGURO

Serial No.:

Filed: October 16, 2001

For: DRIVE-SECTION-ISOLATED FOUP OPENER

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the captioned application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please rewrite claim 4 as follows:

4. (Amended) A drive-section-isolated FOUP opener according to claim 1, further comprising a drive section chamber for housing the drive section of said port door horizontal-movement mechanism, the drive section of said sensor horizontal-movement mechanism, and the drive section of said port-door-and-sensor vertical-movement mechanism, and
- said drive section chamber including a device for exhausting an atmosphere in said drive section chamber to an exterior of said drive section chamber.

Please add the following new claims:

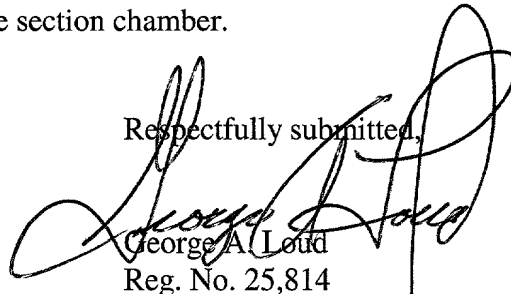
- 5. A drive-section-isolated FOUP opener according to claim 2, further comprising a drive section chamber for housing the drive section of said port door horizontal-movement mechanism, the drive section of said sensor horizontal-movement mechanism, and the drive section of said port-door-and-sensor vertical-movement mechanism, and

said drive section chamber including a device for exhausting an atmosphere in said drive section chamber to an exterior of said drive section chamber.

6. A drive-section-isolated FOUP opener according to claim 3, further comprising a drive section chamber for housing the drive section of said port door horizontal-movement mechanism, the drive section of said sensor horizontal-movement mechanism, and the drive section of said port-door-and-sensor vertical-movement mechanism, and

said drive section chamber including a device for exhausting an atmosphere in said drive section chamber to an exterior of said drive section chamber.

Respectfully submitted,


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Dated: October 16, 2001

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4. (Amended) A drive-section-isolated FOUP opener according to claim 1 [any one of Claims 1 to 3], further comprising a drive section chamber for housing the drive section of said port door horizontal-movement mechanism, the drive section of said sensor horizontal-movement mechanism, and the drive section of said port-door-and-sensor vertical-movement mechanism, and

said drive section chamber including a device for exhausting an atmosphere in said drive section chamber to an exterior of said drive section chamber.